



Board of Education Recap

April 15, 2019

Just a friendly reminder...

There will be school on

Friday, April 19

The Early Release Schedule will be followed

(make up due to weather).

If there was a theme to last night's Board of Education meeting it was "Technology". Please continue reading...

Chromebook Pilot: Those of you with students in the fifth grade know your children have been regularly using Chromebooks as part of their learning. Members of our Intermediate Center teaching staff came to last night's meeting to [present about this year's pilot](#). As you might imagine, a great deal of preparation and professional development went into making this year's initiative the success that it was. In fact, members of our fifth grade team have been working very closely with our sixth grade staff to ensure a successful rollup of the pilot during the 2019-2020 school year. A special note of thanks to Ms. **Melissa Gervasi** and Mrs. **Channing Liska** for so ably representing their colleagues. Of course, our gratitude is extended to our entire 5th grade team for blazing this new trail.



Technology Plan Update: We thought this would be a good time to update the Board on efforts made to strengthen our technology infrastructure and increase the number of available devices. When we first approached the Board (two years ago) about allocating additional dollars in our technology budget we sought a "1:1 like" technology vision. Concurrently, we were concerned the SmartBoard technology (which was already in place) was reaching the end of its life cycle. Increasingly, these 5+ year old machines were beginning to cost more to replace than their worth.

I am pleased to report a coordinated effort has been established to bring the Chromebook vision to fruition, and we are in the process of replacing SmartBoards with interactive and regular televisions which permit us to "cast" screen images. To the former, the Board approved the planned purchase of additional Chromebooks for our 6th grade launch beginning this September. [Here is a link to our original plan](#).

Information and Advocacy Report: Percent of Seniors Meeting College Board Recommendations for Course of Study. The measure of any academic program is the degree to which students are successful in the post-secondary studies. When the Board of Education was developing their new strategic plan, [Vision 2023](#), it was critical that we included this as one data point in determining the efficacy of our work. [Here is a link to that report](#).

Information and Advocacy Report: Progress on District’s Long-Range Facilities Plan and Annual Capital Improvement and Maintenance Report: Here, too, is an important barometer of our District’s success. While we are continuing to chip away at a number of facilities and maintenance needs (thanks to the community’s support of our referendum), it is important that we maximize our time during the summer in order to address areas not touched by referendum dollars. Building Services Coordinator **Dave Reed** and Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance **Scott DeYoung** provided an overview of summer 2019’s workflow.



As part of the Board of Education’s Personnel Transactions, the community was introduced to Mr. **Cody Lundquist**, the recommended candidate for our High School Principal vacancy. Mr. Lundquist was selected after a multi-step process that involved numerous interviews, activities, and reference checks. Mr. Lundquist represents the very best of the applicant pool. He will begin his work, formally, on July 1, 2019; however, you can expect to see him out and about the school community getting to know students, staff, and parents. Here is a picture of Cody with his wife, **Lesley**, and their son, **Soren**. We are thankful to all those who helped throughout the candidate search, but especially

our Human Resources Coordinator, Mrs. **Cynthia Swart** who led the charge. There will be a district-wide meet and greet with Mr. Lundquist on Thursday, May 2, at 3:30 p.m. in the High School’s Library Media Center. All are welcome!

At the same time, the Board begrudgingly accepted the retirement request of Mr. **Mark Clark**. Mark has been a counselor at Mount Horeb High School for the past 36 years. Much of the school’s success has his fingerprints all over it. We are grateful for his service to our young people, this community, and our colleagues. Mark, you are deserving of nothing but happiness.

I am proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too!

Steve

PS Congratulations to Board members Jeff Hanna, Leah Lipska, and Kimberly Sailor – elected to another term of service to the Board of Education. They were sworn in at last night’s meeting. We express our gratitude to their families for the sacrifices they make so we can “borrow” their loved ones -



Mount Horeb Area School District to Open Biotechnology Lab

MOUNT HOREB, Wis., (April 16, 2019) – The Mount Horeb Area School District is pleased to announce a significant contribution to their high school's instructional program. The Lesar Family Foundation has donated \$50,000 toward the District's biotechnology lab, as part of the District's ongoing \$38.5 million referendum project.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno said, "One of our three main goals of the successful April 2017, referendum was to re-imagine 21st – century classroom learning environments. Having a first-of-its-kind biotechnology laboratory as part of our high school will only serve to enhance our students' learning experiences. This generous donation allows the District to possess the proper laboratory tools and equipment and is destined to catapult our existing curriculum to breakthrough levels. It also beautifully sets the stage for students' ongoing success in their postsecondary studies."

While the biotechnology class has been offered for the past 29 years, the dedicated laboratory will provide students with additional learning spaces to dig even deeper into their studies. Teacher Mr. Tom Lesar shared, "In addition to what you might typically see in a biotech lab [flow hoods (clean bench)], we are now able to purchase a growth chamber, a thermocycler, and a gene gun. This brings our students' learning to a whole new level."

The Lesar Family Foundation was established by Dave and Sherry Lesar. As a successful businessman, Dave has ties to the Mount Horeb region. Both he and his wife Sherry graduated from Mount Horeb High School. He said, "Our supportive and loving parents, Stan and Joyce Lesar, put six children and 6 plus grandchildren through Mount Horeb High School, and they inspired the Foundation to provide funding for the next generation of students to explore solutions through science in ways we have not even begun to imagine. The students of today are getting a leg up on the solutions needed for tomorrow."

The biotechnology laboratory will open in the fall of 2019, as part of the Mount Horeb High School's facility expansion and upgrades. More details of the entire project may be found at referendum.mhasd.k12.wi.us .

Mount Horeb Area Schools Sets Community Listening Session to Discuss School Resource Officer

MOUNT HOREB, Wis., (April 1, 2019) – The Mount Horeb Area School District is interested in hearing the public's feedback about any potential partnership with the Mount Horeb Village for a School Resource Officer program. The Board of Education will be hosting a community forum on Thursday, April 18, from 6-7:30 PM in the Middle School, located at 900 East Garfield Street.